

# THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT REPORT



Volume 4, Issue 3

**PROUDLY REPRESENTING SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN MATEO COUNTIES**

March 2006

## NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION HONORS YEE WITH SERVICE AWARD



### COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS HONORS ASSEMBLYMAN YEE WITH AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEIGHBORHOODS

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For his longtime service to the community, Assembly Speaker pro Tem Yee was recently honored with the Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Neighborhoods by the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN).

"Leland has been a friend of the neighborhoods for a long time and continues his work on our behalf in the Assembly," said Judith Berkowitz, CSFN President.

"I am honored to receive this recognition from the San Francisco neighborhoods," said Yee. "Whether it is fighting the

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## COME JOIN ASSEMBLYMEMBER YEE AT THE Annual 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly District **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

9:00 A.M., SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006  
ARMENIAN AMERICAN DAY SCHOOL  
825 BROTHERHOOD WAY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
Please RSVP: 415-557-2312

## YEE FIGHTS TO PRESERVE LAURA'S LAW AB 2357 WILL PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT REFORMS TO MENTAL ILLNESS TREATMENT LAW

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Speaker pro Tem Yee and Assemblymember Betty Karnette are teaming up to preserve Laura's Law, the statute that allows counties to enforce Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) orders for some potentially dangerous mentally ill patients. Without the Yee-Karnette bill, Laura's Law will expire on January 1, 2008.

Specifically, AB 2357 will preserve Laura's Law to assure that court-ordered help reaches people who are not complying with voluntary treatment programs, have a history of hospitalization, arrest or violent behavior and are potentially dangerous to themselves or others.

"Laura's Law was the most significant reform of California's treatment statutes in the past three decades," said Yee. "Laura's Law has proven to result in less hospitalization, less homelessness, fewer arrests, less incarceration, increased collaboration between the mental health and justice systems, as well as a more efficient and effective cross-agency delivery system."

The current law is named for Laura Wilcox, a 19-year old high school valedictorian, who was killed in 2001 by a man who was suffering from serious delusional paranoia.

Her father, Nick Wilcox, supports AB 2357.

"Laura's mother and I believe that if the court order and

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giant corporations trying to destroy locally-owned businesses or standing up when parks are considered for closure, I have and will continue to stand with our neighborhoods.”

As a community leader, Yee has fought the encroachment of large chain stores which displace locally-owned businesses. As a way to increase awareness of resources available for microenterprises, Yee passed a resolution declaring October as Microenterprise Development Month. He also annually recognizes outstanding microenterprises with the Small Business of the Year Award. Recently, Yee led an effort with the San Francisco Police Department, the Council of District Merchants, and San Francisco S.A.F.E., Inc. to create a Safety Awareness Walk following the murder of a small business owner in the Sunset District.

To protect pedestrians, he has authored legislation to double traffic fines on the ever-dangerous 19th Avenue. In addition, Yee passed a law that would have allowed a local vehicle registration fee dedicated to road repair and pedestrian safety (Governor vetoed). Joining the Bicycle Coalition, he opposed the imposition of tolls for pedestrians or cyclists on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Assemblyman Yee also recently sponsored the Portola Neighborhood Children’s Safety and Health Town Hall to help educate the public on important safety issues.

CSFN was incorporated in 1991 as a 501(c) 4 non profit civic organization with a Board of Directors made up of representatives of member organizations. It has held candidates and issues forums to educate the members and the public. Through member participation and lobbying, CSFN has supported its members on issues affecting the broad community and continues to watch various City departments to insure fair treatment of all city residents.



## **SOCIAL WORKERS GIVE YEE TOP RATING ON LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD**

For his complete support of legislation to implement and improve programs and policies enhancing people’s well-being, Speaker pro Tem Yee earned a 100% rating on the National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter (NASW-CA) 2005 Legislative Scorecard.

“As a legislator my top priority has always been to fight for the well-being of our children and families,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee, also a child psychologist. “Social workers are essential to enhancing the quality of life for all of us, especially the most vulnerable in our community.”



## **SPEAKER PRO TEM YEE, CONSUL GENERAL SANCHEZ URGE LOCAL SUPPORT FOR PHILIPPINES LANDSLIDE VICTIMS *OVER 200 DEAD, THOUSANDS MORE MISSING FROM RECENT LANDSLIDE IN PHILIPPINES***

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Speaker pro Tem Yee and Maria Rowena M. Sanchez, the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, are urging Bay Area residents to financially assist victims of the devastating landslide that struck the Philippines today. Thousands have perished in the central Philippines as a result of a recent landslide which buried an entire village.

“The Philippines and the Bay Area share a long history and maintain strong ties due to the large population of Filipino Americans residing here,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “Beyond the local bridges across the Pacific, Filipinos are great friends of the United States, having come to our aid during World War II, making great sacrifices in that cause. It is important that when our comrades in the Philippines need our help, we respond as friends.”

In December 2004, the Philippines were also devastated by typhoons which caused massive floods and landslides in Luzon. Over 900 people died and tens of thousands were left homeless. At that time, Yee also teamed up with Sanchez to launch a fundraising drive to assist the victims.

“San Francisco, Daly City and the Bay Area are fortunate to host the largest Filipino American community in the United States,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “I am hopeful that all residents can join our friends in the Fil-Am community to support those who are struggling from this most recent disaster.”

“As a result of massive deforestation in the Philippines, flooding is often greater and landslides more extreme,” said Speaker pro Tem Yee. “These events should also serve as a wake-up call to the world in how we treat our environment and natural resources.”

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Consulate General’s office, 447 Sutter St., 6th floor, San Francisco, CA 94108. Checks should be made out to the Heartbridge International Foundation; on the memo line state “Philippines Relief and Rehabilitation Fund.”

Donors’ names, addresses and email addresses should be provided in order that acknowledgements and official receipts can be sent immediately.



## ASSEMBLY APPROVES BILL TO PROTECT GAY CANDIDATES FROM DISCRIMINATION

### STATE ASSEMBLY APPROVES YEE'S EFFORT TO ADD SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO CAMPAIGN CODE

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A bill that seeks to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the voluntary pledge that candidates may sign prior to entering a political campaign recently passed the Assembly on a bipartisan 43-29 vote. AB 1207, Speaker pro Tem Yee's second attempt in two years to pass such legislation, is designed to end discrimination against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community during campaigns. AB 866, identical legislation authored by Yee last year, was vetoed by the Governor.

"It is wrong to defile the honor of the democratic process with vicious name-calling and whisper campaigns that have nothing to do with debate, values or issues," said Speaker pro Tem Yee. "Today's vote shows that Assembly Democrats are committed to clean political campaigns. As the Governor has done on many issues this year, I urge him to join us in putting an end to anti-gay rhetoric by signing AB 1207 into law."

"Anti-gay rhetoric and campaign tactics are never acceptable," said Geoffrey Kors, Executive Director of Equality California, the bill's sponsor. "This amendment to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices simply seeks to establish a level playing field that all candidates would be able to follow. Candidates should focus on issues, not attacks on any group of people."

Specifically, the legislation would have prohibited the use of any negative appeal based on prejudice of sexual orientation or gender identity by candidates or campaign committees who sign the voluntary pledge provided for in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

Currently, existing law establishes a Code of Fair Campaign Practices to which a candidate may voluntarily subscribe and provides a pledge by which the candidate declares that he or she will not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, national origin, physical health status, or age.

This Code of Fair Campaign Practices and a copy of the Elections Code provisions are required to be provided to candidates by the Registrar of Voters at the time of a declaration of candidacy, nomination papers, or any other paper evidencing an intention to be a candidate for public office are issued.



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treatment envisioned under Laura's Law had been available to her killer's family, she might still be alive today," said Wilcox. "As a society we have a duty to provide treatment in the least restrictive setting before people harm themselves or others. Laura's Law needs a chance to prove its value."

"I supported Laura's Law when it was first introduced in the Legislature and I am honored to carry the measure to keep it on the books," said Karnette. "I think it is important to ensure that mentally ill offenders and patients don't fall through the cracks of our public safety system or our mental health system."

Before Laura's Law, the only alternative for noncompliant patients who were suicidal or potentially homicidal was to arrest or hospitalize them. That approach was inefficient, ineffective and dangerous.

Los Angeles County has provided the best example of how to incorporate Laura's Law. The County's limited pilot program has produced treatment and budgetary improvements. Using savings generated by the transfers, the county was also able to establish a program in which mental health teams closely followed a small number of seriously mentally ill people after their discharge from jail.



## YEE TOPS LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS SCORECARD

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For his complete support of environmental legislation and votes on all 18 major environmental bills before the State Assembly, Speaker pro Tem Yee received a 100% rating on the California League of Conservation Voters (CLVC) Legislative Report Card. The priority bills on the scorecard included legislation to improve air quality, reduce global warming, limit coastal water pollution, recycle waste tires, and protect children from dangerous pesticides.

"As a legislator representing a number of natural resource and wildlife areas, I take great pride in receiving a 100% rating from the League of Conservation Voters," said Yee. "Recently our environment has been especially under attack, but fortunately the CLVC continues to be unwavering in protecting our most vital resources."

Assemblyman Yee also scored 100% on the Sierra Club California Scorecard released earlier this year.



## JOIN THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN!

STATEWIDE EFFORT OF MEN SPEAKING OUT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



**CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE PLEDGE AND HELP  
PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

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**CLICK TO HEAR LELAND YEE ON THE WRC**







January 18, 2006

## San Mateo County Times

Saturday

# Despair, heartache for victims

BY CHRISTINE MORENTE, Staff Writer

**PACIFICA** — Dee Belale is worried. For the past few days, she hasn't been able to call her family after a landslide on Sunday struck her village of Sogod in the Philippines' southern Leyte province.

"There's been no answer," she said in a melancholy tone Friday. "I cannot get in touch with family members to confirm exactly if they are OK."

On Friday, another landslide wiped out the village of Guinsaugon, several miles south of Sogod. Guinsaugon has 2,500 residents and an elementary school.

News of the latest landslide brought concern and heartache to Filipino-American residents living in San Mateo County.

"(The Philippines) is where I come from," said Mario Panoringan, of the Daly City-Colma Chamber of



Commerce. "It's a sad thing to happen. More of these people are affected again in poverty. We're broadcasting to different Philippine organizations to reach out."

Ray Satorre, a Daly City planning commissioner, is worried that the provincial towns won't get the help needed from the Philippine government.

"It's an area that's been neglected by the government for so long," he said Friday. "Even the Pope has called for support for the tragedy. It's really sad."

In San Francisco, Assemblyman Leland Yee,

D-San Francisco, and Maria Rowena M. Sanchez, the Philippines Consul General in San Francisco, asked Bay Area residents to send money to the Heartbridge International

Foundation.

"The Philippines and the Bay Area share a long history and maintain strong ties due to the large population of



Filipino-Americans residing here," Yee said Friday. "It is important that when our comrades in the Philippines need our help, we respond as friends."

Since Christmas, Belale has been worried for her family, who told her it had been raining since December. She's been sending canned food and rice to her family in

Sogod because heavy rains had ruined their rice field. It's a day trip for them to buy rice, Belale said.

"It's really hard," she said. "(Before the landslide), I told my relatives to share it with everybody in the village. The good thing is, they help one another. It's like teamwork. But right now, I really don't know how to mobilize help."

People are asked to send their donations to the Philippine Consulate General at 447 Sutter St., 6th floor, San Francisco, CA 94108. Checks should be made out to the Heartbridge International Foundation. On the memo line, write: Philippines Relief and Rehabilitation Fund. Donors' names, addresses and e-mail addresses should be provided in order that acknowledgments and official receipts can be sent immediately.

